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Man Charged in Everett Fire

Everett Fire Chief David Butler, Everett Police Chief Steven Mazzie and State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan announced that their joint investigation has charged Gary Forestier, 39, of Revere, for igniting the April 22 fire at 174-176 Elm Street in Everett. He is being charged with two counts of burning a dwelling and one count of burning a building.

The building contained seven apartments over businesses. Twenty-six people were displaced from their home by this fire but fortunately there were no injuries. The fire started in furniture being temporarily stored against the rear of the building while an apartment was being renovated. The fire also damaged the adjacent commercial building.

The joint investigation involved the Everett Fire Department, the Everett Police Department and State Police investigators assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Fire Chief Butler said, "This case was solved in less than 24-hours due to the genuine cooperation between agencies. The witness-driven, team concept of fire investigation used in Massachusetts has proven highly successful once again."

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "Arson is not a victimless crime." In 2002, there were 1,867 arson fires reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS), and more than one-quarter were deliberately set structure fires. The 485 arson structure fires caused 4 civilian deaths, 17 civilian injuries, 47 fire service injuries and \$14 million in property damage.

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